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Australia

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards

Calcium Fortification of Beverages, Soups & Biscuits Allowed

2005

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Report Highlights:

As part of the ongoing review of Australia's food standards, the Australia New Zealand Food Regulation Ministerial Council recently agreed to permit the addition of calcium to fruit and vegetable juices, drinks, soups and savory biscuits.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Canberra [AS1]
[AS]

As part of the ongoing review of Australia's food standards, the Australia New Zealand Food Regulation Ministerial Council recently agreed to permit the addition of calcium to fruit and vegetable juices, drinks, soups and savory biscuits. This change was gazetted (made law) on November 10, 2005 and has become part of [Standard 1.3.2 – Vitamins and Minerals](#) of the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code.

This change arises out of the Australia New Zealand Food Regulation Ministerial Council Policy Guideline for the Fortification of Foods with Vitamins and Minerals, which was released in May 2004. Ministers agreed that vitamins and minerals may be added to food where there is, for example, demonstrated evidence of a potential health benefit, and it is clear that the fortification of a food will not result in harm. The policy covers both mandatory and voluntary fortification of foods.

Currently the Code states that a vitamin or mineral must not be added to a food unless the addition of that vitamin or mineral is specifically permitted in the Code. The FSANZ [Fortification Implementation Framework](#) provides guidance on how FSANZ is going about implementing regulatory decision-making in relation to the fortification of food with vitamins and minerals. Fortification may be mandatory (i.e. required by regulation), or voluntary (i.e. permitted by regulation but applied at the discretion of industry).

The following applications and proposals are currently being considered by FSANZ under the framework. They can be viewed through the [FSANZ 'Fortification' web page](#).

- Proposal P230: Consideration of Mandatory Fortification with Iodine (Iodine Fortification) - To review the need for mandatory iodine fortification in response to evidence showing increasing prevalence of iodine insufficiency among vulnerable groups in Australia and New Zealand.
- Proposal P295: Consideration of Mandatory Fortification with Folic Acid - To determine the most effective mechanism to increase total folate intake in peri-conceptual women to reduce the incidence of Neural Tube Defects from current levels in the Australian and New Zealand population.
- Application A470: Formulated Beverages - Seeks to permit the addition of a wide range of vitamins and minerals that are currently permitted in the Food Standards Code to water-based non-alcoholic beverages (formulated beverages) through the creation of a specific standard.
- Application A500: Addition of Calcium to Cereal-Based Beverages - To amend Standard 1.3.2 to permit fortification of beverages derived from cereals with calcium.

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